

Digest Reviews and Previews

photograph in the paper, and comes to the fight to arrest him, but at the last moment, relents, and leaves Garfield to rejoin Gloria and the kids.

It is an intensely dramatic theme, well written, acted and directed, and the picture looks headed for the happy, high grosses. Several scenes are particularly powerful, especially the sequence in which Garfield and the kids go swimming in a water tank, during which some of the water is run out, and the party has a tough time getting out. You'll remember this scene some time after seeing the film.

An interesting feature is that the director of this definite melodrama is none other than Busby Berkley, up till recently director of Warners' musical extravaganzas, and a master at placing hundreds of gorgeous chorines on a giant sound stage. Berkley's direction is first class, and is apparently the preface to a new and more varied career.

Running time — 90 minutes.

SHORT SUBJECTS

"THE GREAT HEART" METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

THIS is one of the best of the M-G-M Miniatures, which Carey Wilson narrates. Story tells of Belgium's priest-hero, Father Damphier, of the Order of the Sacred Heart, who as a young priest entered the leper colony of the Hawaiian Islands, and brought order and decency out of complete degeneration and filth, subsequently dying of leprosy himself. Subject is very sympathetically handled, well acted and directed, and is an asset on any bill.

Running time — 11 minutes.

"BOARDER TROUBLE" VITAPHONE

A FAIRLY diverting Joe and Asbestos short, featuring Harry Gribbon and Eddie Green. At times it is very funny, but at other times the humour is very forced. Just fair.

Running time — 2 reels.

"SWINGTIME IN THE MOVIES"

VITAPHONE

THIS is just about the best two-reel Technicolor short we have seen since Metro was making its popular series with name bands. Patterned on the very successful "Out Where the Stars Begin," it again has Fritz Feld, seen in many features, in the comedy lead as the eccentric director. Kathryn "Sugar" Kane, formerly songbird with Vincent Lopez' band, and who introduced "A-Tisket, A-Tasket" to the world, has the feminine lead, and what a swell job she does. John Carroll, who is playing the lead in some Monogram features, including "Rose of the Rio Grande," has the male lead opposite "Sugar". His voice is satisfactory, but we can very easily see that he belongs in short subjects. The production value is first rate, and the swing-singing of "Sugar" Kane is worth the price of admission. A splendid subject, worth special billing.

Running time — 20 minutes.

"OLD SMOKEY"

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

A "Captain and the Kids" cartoon, showing the Captain as a fire chief, replacing "Old Smokey," his faithful fire-horse, with a modern fire-truck. When the Captain's own house catches on fire, he rushes to the rescue, but the truck gets into worse trouble than ever, and in the end it is "Old Smokey" and the Inspector who put out the fire. The truck is scrapped.

Running time — 7 minutes.

"DOG GONE MODERN"

VITAPHONE

A VERY clever "Merrie Melodies" cartoon in color, depicting the adventures of a big dog and a little puppy in a modern model home, complete with robot floor cleaners, dish washers and dryers, etc., etc. Very funny.

Running time — 1 reel.

PERSONAL MUSINGS

NOTE to F.P.C.C. — Since you are engaging this year in a large expansion and renovating program, you might take a look at the Capitol, Hamilton. The seats in that theatre are just about the most uncomfortable of any in the Dominion. And incidentally, are those ushers you have there in uniform, or just figureheads who stand at the head of the aisles, and aren't supposed to show patrons to their seats?

Connie Dennis, cashier at the Imperial, Toronto, showed great presence of mind this week, when a youth, later arrested and identified as Thomas Moore, walked up to the Victoria Street wicket, and shoved a piece of paper through the cage, on which was written, "Keep your mouth shut, and hand over the money". Connie promptly dropped to the floor of the cage, and yelled at the top of her voice for the doorman. The bandit fled, but was apprehended shortly afterwards. Congratulations, Connie, on the war-whoop!

There was a great to-do around the RKO Toronto office this week, with the arrival of Walter Branson, Captain of the George J. Schaefer Drive, and Harry Gittelson, editor of the RKO Flash, for conferences with Leo M. Devaney and the staff of the Toronto Branch.

Jules Levine, back from sunny California, looking the picture of health, and sporting a grand coat of tan.

Tommy Ross, Royal, Bowmanville, is in town this week.

Congratulations to George Stroud, Palace, Hamilton, on winning the \$500 first prize for his exploitation on "Love Finds Andy Hardy".

"Jay L."



Scenes from the Warner Bros. production, "Angels with Dirty Faces", starring James Cagney, Pat O'Brien and the "Dead End" Kids, with Ann Sheridan.

Editorial

(Continued from Page 3)

"Some people call you a Communist, also," said The Digest editor. Mr. Vanderbilt laughed. "I hold a commission in the United States Army. I was with the A.E.F. overseas for twenty-two months, I was gassed and wounded; and I am ready to serve my country again in the cause of Democracy, the keystone of which is founded on Tolerance, a Liberty for all races and creeds. If this has an 'ism' label, I'm it.

"The Communistic accusation has been manufactured by those who seek to destroy President Roosevelt and his friends. But they will never lick Roosevelt, they will re-elect him if he chooses to be a candidate, for he is far cleverer than his opponents.

"I cover America eight or twelve times a year, from coast to coast. I talk to Mr. and Mrs. Average Man and Woman. The Filthy Rich are making a martyr out of Roosevelt. On one occasion I finished my lecture dealing with my Ten Most Interesting Interviews, omitting any mention of Roosevelt, to find myself challenged with the question, 'Why did you not mention Roosevelt?' I was embarrassed for those who had brought me there for this lecture and parried for a reply. But soon several others joined in to ask, 'Do you hate Roosevelt?', ending up their interruptions with a regular chant from hundreds, 'We want Roosevelt!' Someone on the platform whispered, 'They will be waiting for you with blackjacks if you do not answer'; and so I was forced to tell them that the Bureau which had engaged me for the lecture requested me not to mention Roosevelt's name."

Your editor asked some questions about other possible Presidential candidates. Mr. Vanderbilt

mentioned Governor Olsen and said, "The Mooney pardon has made him millions of friends, but if the Filthy Rich do not like anything radical, how will they be reconciled to Governor Olsen who is much more radical than President Roosevelt ever was. There is also James, dark horse they call him, and associated with a platform one plank of which is a Jewish question, but that will never get to first base in the United States."

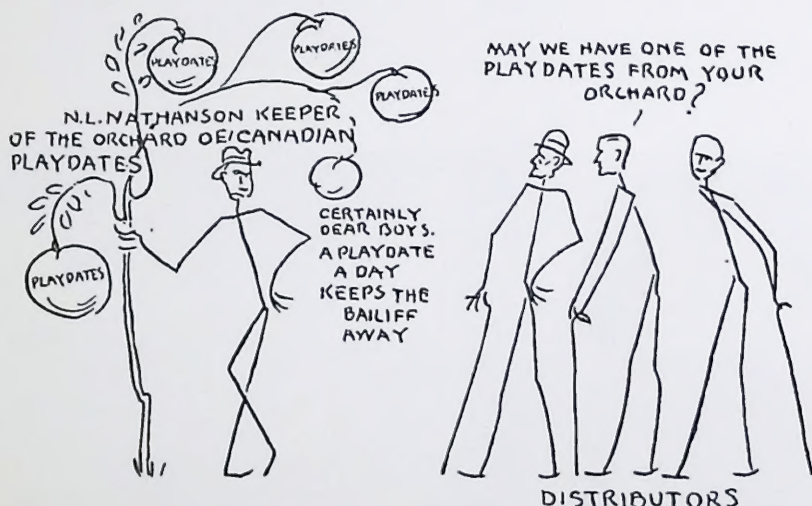
The Digest was interested in rumours of war, and the Cogitations of the Big Bullies, and so a natural question was, "What of Europe?"

Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., told your editor that trouble was ahead. War in the Spring. "By March 1st. The Nazis would enter Roumania by March 15th. Hungary would become Nazi, Japan will seize the Dutch East Indies, cutting the life-line of the British Empire."

March 1st! We pondered on that date, the march of the mad hare, but then there is April 1st, Fool's Day; and may it not be written in the stars that Democracy will catch the March hare in a trap, and instead of the spread of his madness through Roumania and Hungary, may not even Mussolini hold him by the ears as he calls out, "April Fool?"



Old Digest Files Show History Does Repeat Itself



The same Keeper, bigger but not better, and the same distributors, helping to diminish their own trade independence in Canada.

Editor's note.—A recent letter from B.C. contains this interesting paragraph, which re-directs our attention to the 1924 playdate tree which Mr. N. L. Nathanson has encircled. "What do you think of a Dominion-wide Independent Group to fight the Big Interests? I have been agitating here to get a yearly convention started in 1939 for all of B.C. Independent Exhibitors. An English Circuit in Canada would certainly make them do business on a gentleman's basis, but until some other large interest comes into Canada we must keep on fighting for all we are worth or be out on the street from the monopoly control now existing."

Producer-distributors, this is your trade, what are you going to do to save such a situation?

QUEBEC schools made representations to provincial authorities in respect to the situation arising from the exhibition of educational films in school halls. About a month ago, certain Montreal Protestant schools received notifications from a provincial inspector, that in future an amusement tax of \$6 would be charged where rentals of some films meant that a small nominal charge was made to the school children. They were also advised that the operators who ran the projection machines, would have to possess a license for that purpose.

They interviewed Hon. T. J. Coonan, K.C., who in turn communicated with Hon. William Tremblay, Provincial Minister of Labor, and the result was that the Board of Electrical Examiners were instructed to not enforce the license requirements where a member of a school staff operates the projection machine for educational film showings. There has been no official reply in respect to the matter of amusement tax payments.

BROADWAY has a bad case of "Canadiana" — and this week another Canadian's name went up on the marquees of the Music Box Theatre, in a sure hit, Noel Coward's "Set to Music". Critics raved about Beatrice Lillie in this new revue, a series of comic and satirical skits. Miss Lillie, who has a style all her own, famous here and abroad, sang "Traveling a Long Long Way", which brought the house down.

At the Broadhurst Theatre, Lucille Watson, who comes from Quebec City, plays the part of the matriarch in the play, "Dear Octopus". Last year Miss Watson was in Toronto, playing in "Yes, My Darling Daughter", and I particularly remember her as a rather cantankerous person, who nearly bit my head off when I mentioned her in connection with films — calling the latter business, with which I was not a little interested — 'the bunk'. However, "Dear Octopus", which is all about 'family life', is a play I will see when I go down to New York. Its title interests me, reminding me of a certain individual up here in Canada, often referred to as "the Octopus", with no 'dear' preceding the word "Octopus".

PROJECTIONIST WANTED

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By MERRYL LEA

AT the Barrymore Theatre, Walter Huston is playing in the Maxwell Anderson - Kurt Weill's operetta, "Knickerbocker Holiday" — to the delight of all. At the Plymouth Theatre, Raymond Massey of Toronto is playing the part of Abraham Lincoln, in Sherwood's "Abe Lincoln in Illinois", to critics' praises and packed audiences. The last time I saw Raymond Massey, was over in England in July, when he was playing in "Idiot's Delight" in London, with Tamara Geva playing the part which Norma Shearer plays in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film version of this play. Incidentally, according to reports from Hollywood, where the film has been previewed, it is heralded as a sure-fire hit.

"I WAS A CAPTIVE OF NAZI GERMANY", which Colonial Pictures is handling in Canada, is now playing at the Madison Theatre, Toronto. This picture is based on the actual experiences of Miss Isobel Steele, a young woman of Canadian birth, now living in the United States, when she was imprisoned in Germany's Moabit Prison.

Miss Steele is in Toronto, and is making a personal appearance daily at the Madison Theatre. The picture got considerable publicity, all newspapers interviewing Miss Steele on her arrival in the city. "I Was a Captive of Nazi Germany" is booked into the Hanson Theatres in Ontario.

CAN. GOVERNMENT PLANS NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Ottawa, Ont. — According to reports received, the Canadian Government is seriously considering the formation of a National Film Board to co-ordinate all Federal Government activities. Board will consist of a film commissioner and a board of eight, including the Minister of Trade and Commerce as chairman, one other minister, three senior Government officials and three others. According to present plans there would be, under the Board, an inter-departmental committee headed by the director of the Canadian Motion Picture Bureau.

FOR those interested in getting feature stories on the film pages of the local newspaper, this article, republished from "The Albertan", Calgary, gives you the line-up on one way of doing it: "PREMIUMS AT THE GRAND — GLASSWARE SETS FOR THE LADIES — That display of glassware alongside the Grand Theatre aroused many interested comments yesterday and there seems to be little doubt that this premium gift for Grand lady patrons is going to be even more popular than the dinnerware set now being distributed each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

"Screen program today mingles rich comedy and drama. There is Walter Winchell having his bitterest and merriest feud with Ben Bernie in 'Wake Up and Live'. They are ably assisted by Patsy Kelly, Jack Haley, who plays the Phantom Voice on the radio, and Ned Sparks."

This story, under a bold face heading, "AROUND THE THEATRES" got the best position of any local film story. Note the "premium" attraction got top billing; the picture seems only second in importance.

GORDON SPARLING, of Associated Screen News, Montreal, was in Toronto this week, and spoke before the Women's Advertising Club on "Films From A Director's Angle". The importance of films as complimentary to other media of advertising was stressed. Mr. Sparling illustrated his talk with films, "Under the Stars", with music by Horace Lapp, and "Song the Map Sings". Colonel John A. Cooper, Mr. John Chisholm, Mr. F. O'Byrne and Mr. Lapp, were present.

GERTRUDE LAWRENCE is in Toronto this week, starred in "Susan and God" at the Royal Alexandra. Admission price from \$1.00 up. The Stroud Twins headed the vaudeville at Shea's Toronto. Out at the coast, The Beacon, Vancouver, headlined "Sally Rand". Incidentally, this revival of vaudeville makes us rather wonder if those who are behind it, realize that there is a new generation of theatre-goers, to whom vaudeville is something one has heard about in the dim, dark past, and that they therefore must be educated to this form of entertainment.

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Shooting the Stars

Production started this week on the sixth **HARDY FAMILY** picture at M-G-M with Mickey Rooney, Lewis Stone, Cecilia Parker, Fay Holden, Sara Haden, Ann Rutherford and Don Castle in their established roles; cast is enlarged by **VIRGINIA GREY**, playing a chorine who vamps Andy; **HALE HAMILTON** as Aunt Milly's first heart interest; **WILLIAM ORR** as a new admirer of Polly, and **HALLIWELL HOBBS** as the Hardy's first butler . . . **"THE GORILLA"** goes into production at 20th CENTURY-FOX shortly under **ALAN DWAN'S** direction; heading the all-star cast are the **RITZ BROTHERS**, **PETER LORRE**, **LIONEL ATWILL** and **WALLY VERNON** . . . **HENRY ARMETTA** and **WARREN HYMER** have been signed by **COLUMBIA** for important character roles in **"OLD MRS. LEONARD AND THE MACHINE GUNS"**, starring **FAY BANTER**, with **IDA LUPINO** and **LEE BOWMAN** as the juvenile leads . . . **"THE SPELLBINDER"**, an original story by **JOSEPH ANTHONY**, has been purchased by **PANDRO S. BERMAN**, vice-president in charge of production at **RKO RADIO**, and will be readied for the screen this spring; **CLIFF REID** will produce . . . **DAVID O. SELZNICK** announced this week that he will produce **"SWANEE RIVER"**, based on the life of **STEPHEN**

COLLINS FOSTER; release will be through **UNITED ARTISTS** . . . **WARNER BROS.** have retitled **"BROADWAY CAVALIER"**, now nearing completion with **WAYNE MORRIS**, **PAT O'BRIEN** and **JOAN BLONDELL** in the starring roles, **"THE KID FROM KOKOMO"**;



Bette Davis, Warner Bros. star, coming soon in "Dark Victory".

supporting cast includes **May Robson**, **Maxie Rosenbloom** and **Jane Wyman** . . . **"6,000 ENEMIES"**, written under the title **"State Prison"** by **WILSON MENARD** and **DR. LEONIDAS HUBBARD** . . . shooting is expected to commence in a few weeks on the new **CHARLES CHAPLIN** production, **"THE DICTATOR"**, which Chaplin will produce, author and direct, as well as starring in his first talkie; **Sydney Chaplin** will act as co-director and production assistant . . . **"THEY MADE HER A SPY"**, **SALLY EILERS'** new dramatic vehicle with **ALLAN LANE** as her leading man, went before the cameras this week at **RKO RADIO** with **ROBERT SISK** as producer . . . **PAT O'BRIEN**, **WAYNE MORRIS**, **ROSEMARY LANE**, **JANE BRYAN** and **RONALD REAGAN** will play the principal roles in **"THE LIFE OF KNUTE ROCKNE"**, soon to go into production at **WARNER BROS.**, with **Mrs. Rockne** as technical adviser . . . **SLIM SUMMERVILLE**, **PAULINE MOORE** and **ROBERT LOWERY** will be seen in important roles in the new 20th CENTURY-FOX film, **"CHARLIE CHAN IN RENO"**, starring **SIDNEY TOLER** . . . **IVAN LEBEDEFF** and **REGIS TOOMEY** are the latest additions to the cast of **COLUMBIA'S "SABOTAGE"** starring **JACK HOLT**.

Trans - Canada Showings

TORONTO

HOLLYWOOD

"Dark Journey" (London Films), starring **Conrad Veidt** and **Vivien Leigh**, and **"Annabel Takes a Tour"** (RKO Radio), starring **Jack Oakie** and **Lucille Ball**.

IMPERIAL

"Paris Honeymoon" (Paramount), starring **Bing Crosby**, **Franciska Gaal** and **Shirley Ross**, and **"Disbarred"** (Paramount), starring **Otto Kruger**.

LOEW'S

"The Shining Hour" (M-G-M), starring **Joan Crawford**, **Margaret Sullavan**, **Melvyn Douglas**, **Robert Young** and **Fay Bainter**.

SHEA'S

"There's That Woman Again" (Columbia), starring **Melvyn Douglas** and **Virginia Bruce**. Also stage show.

UPTOWN

2nd week. **"The Beachcomber"** (Paramount), starring **Charles Laughton** and **Elsa Lanchester**.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"Kentucky" (20th Century-Fox), starring **Loretta Young** and **Richard Greene**.

LOEW'S

"Say It In French" (Paramount), with **Olympe Bradna** and **Ray Milland**. Also stage show.

CRPHEUM

"King Kong" (RKO Radio revival), starring **Bruce Cabot**, **Fay Wray** and **Robert Armstrong**, and **"It Happened One Night"** (Columbia revival), starring **Clark Gable** and **Claudette Colbert**.

PALACE

"Cut West with the Hardys" (M-G-M), starring **Lewis Stone**, **Mickey Rooney**, **Cecilia Parker** and **Fay Holden**.

OTTAWA

CAPITOL

"The Dawn Patrol" (Warners), starring **Errol Flynn**.

CENTRE

"Going Places" (Warners), starring **Dick Powell** and **Anita Louise**.

ELGIN

"Topper Takes a Trip" (Hal Roach-U.A.) starring **Constance Bennett** and **Roland Young**.

IMPERIAL

"Tarnished Angel" (RKO Radio), starring **Sally Eilers**, and **"Next Time I Marry"** (RKO Radio), with **Lucille Ball** and **James Ellison**.

REGENT

"Young Dr. Kildare" (M-G-M), starring **Lionel Barrymore** and **Lew Ayres**, and **"The Girl Downstairs"** (M-G-M), starring **Franchot Tone** and **Franciska Gaal**.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

"Angels with Dirty Faces" (Warners), starring **James Cagney**, **Pat O'Brien** and the **"Dead End"** Kids.

FURBY

"Sing You Sinners" (Paramount), starring **Bing Crosby** and **Fred MacMurray**, and **"Smashing the Rackets"** (RKO Radio), starring **Chester Morris**.

GARRICK

5th week. **"You Can't Take It With You"** (Columbia), starring **Jean Arthur**, **James Stewart**, **Lionel Barrymore** and **Edward Arnold**.

METROPOLITAN

"The Lady Vanishes" (G-B), starring **Paul Lukas** and **Dame May Whitty**, and **"Spring Madness"** (M-G-M), starring **Maureen O'Sullivan** and **Lew Ayres**.

RIALTO

"52nd Street" (Wanger-U.A.), starring **Ian Hunter** and **Pat Patterson**, and **"Penitentiary"** (Columbia), starring **Walter Connolly**.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"Angels with Dirty Faces" (Warners), starring **James Cagney**, **Pat O'Brien**, and the **"Dead End"** Kids.

PALACE

"Brother Rat" (Warners), starring **Wayne Morris** and **Priscilla Lane**.

PLAZA

"Judge Hardy's Children" (M-G-M), starring **Lewis Stone**, **Mickey Rooney**, **Cecilia Parker** and **Fay Holden**, and **"Swiss Miss"** (M-G-M), starring **Laurel** and **Hardy**.

STRAND

"Adventures of Robin Hood" (Warners), starring **Errol Flynn** and **Olivia de Havilland**, and **"Speed to Burn"** (20th Century-Fox), with **Michael Whalen** and **Lynn Bari**.

VARIETY

"Test Pilot" (M-G-M), starring **Clark Gable** and **Myrna Loy**, and **"The Missing Guest"** (Universal), with **Paul Kelly** and **Constance Moore**.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL

2nd week. **"Sweethearts"** (M-G-M), starring **Jeanette MacDonald** and **Nelson Eddy**.

BEACON

"Personal Secretary" (Universal), with **Bill Gargan**, **Joy Hodges** and **Andy Devine**, and **"Orphans of the Street"** (Republic), with **Tommy Ryan**. On the stage—**Sally Rand** plus vaudeville.

DUNBAR

"Gateway" (20th Century-Fox), starring **Don Ameche** and **Arleen Whalen**, and **"You and Me"** (Paramount), starring **George Raft** and **Sylvia Sydney**.

KINGSWAY

"Three Comrades" (M-G-M), starring **Robert Taylor**, **Margaret Sullavan**, **Franchot Tone** and **Robert Young**, and **"Let's Get Married"** (Columbia).

PLAZA

2nd week. **"The Young in Heart"** (Selznick-U.A.), starring **Janet Gaynor**, **Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.**, and **Paulette Goddard**.